

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to gas cooking areas comprising at least one heating element, a power controller for setting a heating output of the heating element, which operates according to the set heating output in a first operating mode or in a second operating mode, and an indicating device that indicates the set heating outputs, at which the heating element operates in the first operating mode, with symbols from a first set of symbols ( 1 , 2 , 3 , 4 , ). In order to increase the user-friendliness when operating the cooking area, the invention provides that the indicating device indicates output stages at which the heating element operates in the second operating mode, with symbols from a second set of symbols ( \_ , = , = ) of a different symbolism.